Tapping Non-Conventional energy sources

873. SHRI O. P. KOHLl: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that development of renewable and non-conventional sources of energy, as from sea waves, wind and sun, is the only answer to the perennial unpredictability of conventional sources like hydel and thermal, in the next millennium; and

(b) if so, the details of efforts being made to tap non-conventional sources of energy?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIEMANTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Development of renewable and non-conventional energy sources will play an increasingly important role in supplementing production of energy from conventional sources in the next millennium.

(b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional energy is implementing a large array of projects and programmes aimed at tapping-the vast non-conventional sources of energy available in the country. These include projects and programmes largely in the wind, solar, biomass and small hydro power sectors.

Efforts being made to encourage tapping of non-conventioncal sources of energy include a range of fiscal and financial incenticves such as subsidy and

100% depreciation benefits on certain new and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) projects, excise, customs and tax concessions, offering soft loans through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), giving automatic approval to proposals for foreign direct investment up to 74% for manufacture of certain NRSE devicestystems and drawing up an attractive facility for evacuation of power from NRSE projects.

आप नागरिक को सूचना प्राप्त करने का अधिकार

874. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल**:

श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या संसदीय कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था में पारदर्शिता लाने हेतु आम नागरिक को सूचना प्राप्त करने के अधिकार देने संबंधी विधेयक को संसद में पारित कराने का निश्चय कर रखाहैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो निर्णय अन्तिम रूप से कब लिया गया था;

(ग) यदि नहीं,तो विधेयक कब तक तैयार हो जायेगा और इसे संसद में विचारार्थ पुर: स्थापित कर दिया जायेगा ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय) : (क) से (घ) जनवरी,1997 में सरकार ने श्री एच.डी.शौरी की अध्यक्षता में "सूचना प्राप्त करने के अधिकार तथा खुली और पारदर्शी सरकार ने विकास" पर कार्यदल का गठन किया । कार्यदल ने अनय बातों के साथ-साथ संसद द्वारा"सूचना अधिनियम की स्वतंत्रता" के अधिनियम के सिफारिश करते हुए 21 मई,1997 को अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार को प्रस्तुत की थी । इस सिफारिश पर विचार का कार्य ऊंचे स्तर पर हैं ।

Development of small hydro power projects in N.E. States

875. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the difficulties expressed by the North Eastern States in the development of Small Hydro Power Projects; and

(b) if so, the details of corrective measures suggested by the Power Finance Corporation in this regard?